

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

10th Sunday after Pentecost

July 30th & August 2nd, 2026

"By His Grace you are saved through faith"
Ephesians 2:8



Image: *"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever."*
(Psalm 136:1)

Welcome to Grace! We're Glad You've Joined Us!

WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS

Worship bulletins & worship activity bags (age 2-8) are available for your children to use during the service. Please see an usher if you need assistance finding them.

Children are **always** welcome - we don't want anything to keep families from attending! From time to time a child will naturally have a difficult moment in worship. If that happens and you feel a need to step out, please make use of our church narthex and entrance, so you may still be able to follow along in worship until your child is ready to return again! If your child is using the bathroom during the worship service, we ask that you monitor them so that they are using it in a timely manner. We are glad that you're here!!!

If you would like to include a **prayer for someone** in our worship today, please add it to the **Prayer Request Sheet** found on the podium in the narthex.

We're glad you're with us. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taggatz. If you are in search of a new church home, or are interested in learning more about Grace, we would be happy to visit with you. We hope you'll be back and give us an opportunity to know you!

As We Gather—"Nuthin' like It!"

After a meal, does your family pray Psalm 136:1, "*Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever*"? That short prayer is not just a reminder to say "*thank You*" to God, who provides daily bread for our bodies. It also repeats why God provides, specifically, because of "*His steadfast love.*" In fact, if you pray that entire psalm, it lists the many ways God provides for all our needs of body and soul. The rich Hebrew word translated "*steadfast love*" reflects not only God's general attitude but also His mighty acts and deeds to provide for His people's entire lives and well-being. Jesus' provision of food for the people in the wilderness (Matthew 14) as well as "*our daily bread*" call to the mind of faith His ultimate gift of love, the forgiveness of our sins. As the prophet Isaiah speaks of the "*rich food*" God provides "*that your soul may live*" (Isaiah 55:2-3), so the humble Meal of bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar causes us to remember the greatest work of our Lord's steadfast love on the cross. At the altar, we receive the very substance of God's steadfast love that enlivens and strengthens a steadfast faith that will endure until we are welcomed to the great and promised heavenly feast of eternal life.

We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer.** Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

Order of Service—*Divine Service Setting 3, pg. 184*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 703 How Can I Thank You, Lord (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 184

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (Psalm 105:39-43; antiphon: v. 1, sung responsively)



Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name;*
 make known his deeds among the | peoples!
He spread a cloud for a | covering,*
and fire to give | light by night.
 They asked, and he | brought quail,*
 and gave them bread from heaven in a- | bundance.
He opened the rock, and water | gushed out;*
it flowed through the desert like a | river.
 For he remembered his holy | promise,*
 and Abraham, his | servant.
So he brought his people | out with joy,*
his chosen ones with | singing.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name;*
 make known his deeds among the | peoples!

Kyrie *LSB 186*

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 187*

P Glory be to God on high:
C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 189*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray. Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 55:1-5*

(The compassion of the Lord)

¹“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (*Romans 11:33, 36, read responsively*)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!

For from him and through him and to him are | all things.*

To him be glory forever. | Amen.

Epistle Lesson *Romans 9:1-13*

(Not all Israel are Israel.)

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— ²that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the

covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

⁶But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁰And not only so, but also when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call— ¹²she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia LSB 190

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Alleluia Verse for the 10th Sunday after Pentecost—“*Alleluia. Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance. Alleluia.*” (Psalm 78:25)

Holy Gospel Matthew 14:13-21

(Jesus’ compassion on a great crowd)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John], he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” ¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed *LSB 191*

- C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message— "The Sweetest Deal Is Free!" (Isaiah 55:1-5) *The children of the congregation are invited to come up to the chancel area for a special message for them. Please*

note—parents of small children may also come up near the chancel area to accompany their children for the message)

Sermon Hymn 566 By Grace I'm Saved (vs. 1-5)

Sermon “Cross Bearers- Faith and Works” (Eph. 2:1-10, James 2:14-26)

Sermon Texts:

Ephesians 2:1-10—¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

James 2:14-26—¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Offertory LSB 192

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
 Amen.**

Offering/Attendance

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord's Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site at graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write 'online giving' on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



Stand

Prayer of the Church (*After each petition the Pastor will say, "Lord in Your mercy," and the congregation responds saying, "Hear our prayer."*)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface *LSB 194*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for Your steadfast love endures forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. As He fed the multitude in the wilderness, so He provides for us daily bread and the fruits of His sacrifice on the cross in the breaking of the bread of Holy Communion. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 195*

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer *LSB 196*

P Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei LSB 198

C **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

We celebrate the Lord's Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord's Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to "*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*" the Good News of God's Grace! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)*. Before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins? (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)*
2. *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins? (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)*
3. *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?) (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)*

4. *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit?*
(Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE—*We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.*

Distribution Hymns

-774 Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy

-744 Amazing Grace

Stand

Nunc Dimittis LSB 199

- C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving LSB 200

- A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.
- A Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.
- P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus LSB 202

- A Bless we the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction LSB 202

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.
C **Amen, amen, amen.**

Closing Hymn 912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone (vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



The flowers on the altar are given by Dawn Jantz

In Loving Memory of her

Daughter and Sister's August Birthdays

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. Michael Parker (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's son; Jim & Kari (healing and strength) friends of Joy Lussier; **Greg Voss** (Dementia and Alzheimer's); **Sindy Schmidt** (healing & patience); **Gary Forsythe** (dementia) friend of Carol Loveall; **Brittany** (cancer) daughter of Denise Afelt; **Judy** (poor eyesight) friend of Joy Lussier; **Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew** (Alzheimer's); **Jenny Rice** (cancer); **Jennifer** (diagnosed with MS); **Steve Benzie** (stomach pain, hernia); **Cheryl** (cancer) friend of Dennis Iseli; **Carol Long** (cancer) friend of Joy Lussier; **Mariya** (cancer); **Terri** (healing and strength) friend of

Joy Lussier; **Cris Evers** (healing & strength); **Laura** (Lou Gehrig's Disease) friend of Jim & Janine Pieper; **Martha Rowley** (hospice) Grandma of Mary Rowley; **Dale** (pancreatic cancer) brother of Joy Lussier; **Evan Kopperud** (healing & strength); **Tina Drapp** (breast cancer); **Debbie Parker** (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's daughter in law; **Scott Brenton** (on dialysis) Linda Maldonado's fiancé; **Gary** (leukemia) friend of Marlene Voss; **Karen** (surgery); **Pam** (melanoma, healing & strength) relative of Carol Thurber; **Marilyn Pugh** (heart condition) friend of Carol Loveall; **Shirley Stachowiak** (cancer) niece of Dennis Iseli; **Lori Jablonski** (cancer); **Christopher Barnard** (healing & strength following surgery); **Dan Taggatz** (Cardiac Rehab) Pastor Taggatz's Uncle; **Chris** (leukemia) friend of Joanne Jaeger; **Jackie Lehman** (healing & strength); **Alan Jacobson** (declining health) Father of Jill Kent; **Connie Roettgen** (healing from neck injury); **Ron and Judy** (cancer) friends of Mike & Pat Toman, **Betty** (hospice) mother of Lori Kachelmeier; **Michael Knoll** (cancer) friend of Doc Medek; **Brian** (rotator cuff surgery) friend of Mary Rowley; **Chuck Mirenda** (lung cancer) brother of Tony Mirenda; **Marlene Voss** (healing & strength); **Joy Lussier** (healing & strength); **Jodi Pokrzewinski** (knee surgery) friend of Jill Kent; **Pete** (cardiac rehab) friend of Janine & Jim Pieper; **Jan Rogers** (recovery from surgery) sister of Kathy Kolb; **Cheryl Jorgensen** (dementia) mother of Linda Maldonado; **Tim** (recovery from a stroke) brother in law Renee Bangart; **Joanie** (torn meniscus) sister in law of Carol Loveall; **Nathan Taggatz** (fighting wildfires in Colorado) brother of Pastor Taggatz

For our Homebound Members at Grace: Kathy Gaudian, Bernice Byklum, Doc Medek, Rose Adams, Jan Barrett, Barb Praxel and Jan Warmkessel.

All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues; Hear our prayer.

We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing:
Paulinemom@aol.com.

If you do not have access to a computer you may call, prayers for worship:
Church Office 414-762-8990

Requests on prayer line:

9am-3pm	Carol Thurber	414-762-9615
3pm-9pm	Pauline Parker	414-764-5574

Assisting with the Divine Service

We thank God for all those individuals who have been involved in supporting our worship services this week.
If you are interested in assisting in any of the ways shown below, please speak with pastor or one of our elders.

	<u>Thursday 7/30 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8/2 9:00am</u>
Elders	Greg Nowakowski	Craig Lau
Readers	Suzie Mirenda	Jen Lau
Communion Set-up	Janine & Marlene	Jeanne Meyer
Linens	Donna Dotson	Donna Dotson
Acolyte		
Ushers	Lance Kopperud	Steven Pawlak
	Marlene Voss	
Livestream		Glenn Dotson

The Buzzell Family invites you
to please join us as we gather to remember,
laugh and celebrate the beautiful life of
Lynn Buzzell
On Sunday, August 16th, 2026
At the Oak Creek Community Center
from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.
Wisconsin Badger attire is encouraged.



Rise & Sonshine Bible Study - Ladies you are all invited to join us!

- **August 8th 8:00am Breakfast** at Golden Honey Pancake & Café - 7135 S 13th Street, Oak Creek
- **Oak Creek Farmer's Market** afterwards for those interested

**In case of bad weather, we will meet at church.
Texts and emails will go out to let everyone know change of plans.**

Any questions please email or text Jennifer Olen:
414.305.3740 olenjennifer@aol.com

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

The Ladies Bible Study will be starting up again.
Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church beginning, September 2nd, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. Join us!!!

We are studying, "*Joy: A Study in Philippians*" by Deb Burma.

Here is some information about the book:

Sure, we find joy in our triumphs, but not so much in the trials. Yet real joy, genuine joy, is always ours in the saving grace of Christ Jesus. This close look at Paul's Letter to the Philippians, the "letter of joy," unpacks messages of contentment, confidence, humility, and hope—all found in Christ infused with joy—in the mountaintop moments and in the mundane. Enclosed are eight weeks of study, divided into forty short sessions, to help you realize the gifts from God's hand more fully. Ample materials are provided to make the sessions flexible for personal or group use and to accommodate changing schedules and individual needs. Targeted study, discussion and reflection questions, and life-application challenges guide you in your exploration of joy.

Mark your calendars!

A *Christian Men's Retreat*, "*Iron Sharpens Iron*," will be held at Luther Memorial Chapel & University Student Center (Milwaukee), October 16-17, 2026. This retreat is open to all men and will provide an opportunity to enjoy fraternal conversation, fellowship and enrichment in God's Word. Cost is \$50. University students attend free of charge. Meals provided.

You are invited to register at the following link: <https://forms.gle/WvepofLyXqAJjuY17>

God is at work across the South Wisconsin District in church plants, congregations, organizations, and communities, and we want you to see it.

"Mission & Mercy Moments"

is a free monthly e-newsletter celebrating how we receive and share the Gospel together. Read stories of outreach, mercy, and partnership, and discover how you can pray and get involved.

Subscribe today at: myswd.net/MMM.

Congratulations are in order!!! Our Grace Early Childhood Center is so excited to share with our incredible families and Grace community voted us the TOP choice in Milwaukee for childcare AND preschool! This recognition means so much to us because it's built on the trust, relationships, and partnerships we've been blessed to share with each of our families. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your continued support and encouragement! We are incredibly blessed to serve our families each day. We can't wait to share more soon! *"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."* Proverbs 22:6

Special Voters Meeting - Sunday, August 23rd

The Church Council is inviting all voting members to a **Special Voters Meeting on Sunday, August 23**, following worship, to discuss the possibility of moving to a **single Sunday worship service year-round at 9:00 a.m.** No changes have been made, and **no changes will occur without the input and approval of the congregation through the Voters Assembly.**

One of the primary reasons for discussing this proposal is the increasing difficulty over the years in securing enough volunteers to faithfully serve at three weekly worship services, particularly elders, ushers, and other worship assistants. A single Sunday service would also gather more of our church family together around God's Word and Sacraments, allowing us to lift one voice in song, strengthen our fellowship, and provide more opportunities for members to see and encourage one another.

Under this proposal, **Thursday evening worship would remain unchanged at 6:30 p.m.** Sunday worship would be held at **9:00 a.m. year-round**, followed by a **Christian Education Hour at 10:15 a.m.** for all ages, including Sunday School, youth, and adult Bible study. We believe this proposal could help us be better stewards of the time, talents, and resources God has entrusted to us while continuing to provide meaningful opportunities for worship and Christian education. Most importantly, **we want to hear from you.**

Please plan to attend this important meeting, ask questions, share your thoughts, and help us discern together what is best for the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church.

Attention 6th - 8th Grade Parents

There will be a special Confirmation meeting on Monday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the school with Pastor Taggatz. At this meeting you will find out the schedule for your child's confirmation instruction, the curriculum your child will be learning from Martin Luther's Small Catechism, and the expectations for the class regarding acolyting for our 6th & 7th graders and ushering for our 8th graders, along with worship reports and memory work that they will be doing from God's Word and the Catechism.

Confirmation classes will begin Monday, September 21st at 6:30 p.m. for Public School students. The Confirmation Classes will be taking place in the school.

Sunday, September 13th

Christian Education Sunday and Church Picnic at Grace Lutheran School!!!

Please join us for our Annual Church Picnic on Sunday, September 13th. We will have our Christian Education Sunday Worship Service at 10am in our Church Sanctuary. Then, the picnic will start at 11:30am at Grace Lutheran School. We hope you can join us for some good fun, food, and Christian fellowship!!!

Please register by Sunday, September 6th. You can register on the sign-up sheet in the church narthex, or by contacting the church office via email church@graceoakcreek.org, or calling 414-762-8990. Please note that food and beverages will be provided for this event. Feel free to bring lawn games such as: *ladder toss and bean bag toss* for you and your fellow parishioners to enjoy. As you sign up, please indicate the number of people attending and if you can help with set up, serving, and/or clean up. We are looking forward to seeing you there!!!

Adult Bible Class & Sunday School

Sunday School at Grace begins on Sunday, September 20th. It is for children preschool through 8th Grade. This year we also will be providing Sunday School for our High School Students. We are also providing Adult Bible Class at Grace. Adult Bible Class will take place in the School Library and Sunday School will be taking place at Grace Lutheran School. **Because of the Congregation vote on August 23rd, 2026, regarding Sunday morning worship, the time for Sunday School is to be determined.**

Adult Bible Class will be every Sunday of the month and Sunday School and High School Bible Study will be on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. If you are interested in helping out with Sunday School, please contact our Sunday School Superintendent, Mary Rowley at: sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org.

2nd Quarter Giving Statements

Your 2nd Quarter Giving Statements are now available for pickup in the church narthex. Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries at Grace through the giving of your time, talents, and treasures. Your generosity enables us to proclaim the Gospel and serve others in Christ's name in our Church, School, and ECC!!! *"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Free Will Planning Workshop

Plan Your Legacy

Mark your calendars! Grace Lutheran Church is pleased to host a FREE Will Planning Workshop sponsored by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF).

 Monday, November 9, 2026 6:00–7:30 p.m.  Grace Lutheran School
(See the handout in the narthex for further details)

2026 Summer Catechetical Series "Perspectives on the Cross"

The Six Chief Parts of the Christian Faith are well known among our Lutheran members, and it is a good practice to rehearse and even interrogate them often for the benefit of those under our care. This series is an attempt to provide a fresh look at the Chief Parts, to show how they fit into the Christian's daily walk and may be practiced in our daily interactions. These teachings attempt to display this truth by viewing the Chief Parts through multifaceted aspects of the cross, using comparisons to our bones, eyes, and words, to wind, to a unique way with which we Christians are blessed, and to fire. The final sermon encourages us to bear our crosses in daily life and in doing so participate in the redemptive work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, seeing all of life and its activities through the lens of the cross of Calvary as well as the vacant cross and empty tomb.

1. July 30th & August 2nd—Cross Bearers: Faith and Works, Ephesians 2:1–10; James 2:14–26



Giving Tree in our Church Sanctuary Begins on Memorial Day Weekend!!!

The *Giving Tree* from our Board of Stewardship will be up soon in our Church Sanctuary. Proceeds from the *Giving Tree* this year will go to support our *Church's Good Samaritan Fund*, which helps out those in need from our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center, and the Oak Creek Community. ***Please note: The deadline to give is Labor Day weekend.*** Thank you for your generosity and support for those who are in need!!!

Thrivent Choice Dollars - Support God's Ministry at Grace Lutheran

Thrivent recently announced an exciting change to make ministry support easier and more impactful through Thrivent Choice Dollars. Instead of distributing Choice Dollars gradually throughout the year, Thrivent has now placed the full annual amount of your 2026 Choice Dollars into your account right away. This means you can direct all of your 2026 Choice Dollars now, putting them to work immediately for God's ministry at Grace Lutheran Church, School, & ECC in Oak Creek rather than waiting until the end of the year. Please consider logging into your Thrivent account and directing your 2026 Thrivent Choice Dollars to support the mission and ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, School, & ECC Oak Creek. Thank you for your continued support and generosity as we share the love of Christ with our congregation, school families, and community.

The Lutheran Hour "Why Jesus Told Parables"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler **Archives August**—Effective communicators tell stories to make a point. Hear how Jesus' parables point us to Himself. (Mark 4)

Listen online at: lhm.org - or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings:

WTMJ 620 AM Milwaukee, WI Sunday 6:30 am

WGN 720 AM Chicago, IL Sunday 6:30am

"And so, our life finds its meaning in Him. Our path is directed by Him. Our future is secure in Him. Though life may take a very unexpected turn, whether with a pregnancy, an illness, depression, or sudden loss, there is hope, there is peace, and there is comfort in the compassion and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us." *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* Are you struggling with a crisis pregnancy or guilt after an abortion? Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679. Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

IN THE WORD FOR THE 10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism:

Confession—What is confession? What sins should we confess? Which are these?

Verse of the week:

Isaiah 55:1 *“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 136:1-9 (antiphon vs. 26)

Hymn of the week: LSB 642 “O Living Bread from Heaven”

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday

Pentecost 10: The Feeding of the 5,000—Matthew 14:13-21

Monday

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant—Matthew 18:21-35

Tuesday

Jesus Teaches on Marriage and Divorce—Matthew 19:1-12

Wednesday

Jesus Blesses the Children—Matthew 19:13-15

Thursday

The Rich Young Ruler—Matthew 19:16-30

Friday

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard—Matthew 20:1-16

Saturday

Jesus Predicts His Passion a Third Time—Matthew 20:17-28

Stewardship Minute Through faith, we understand that who we are and what we have are blessings from God. In the words of Jesus’ brother, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...”* (James 1:17). Even before God created the world, we were destined to be His children and recipients of His blessings. Through faith, we understand that God blesses us not only for our own edification but for the purpose of blessing others. God partners with us as His fellow workers (1 Corinthians 3:9) to share His grace, love, and mercy with others. We are blessed to serve God by serving others and His Church, so that all people may hear the Good News of the Gospel.

GET OUR SPENDING UNDER CONTROL WHEN WE DISCERN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR NEEDS AND WANTS.

“Keep your life free from love of money and be content with what you have...”
(Hebrews 13:5)



Growing in Grace –July 23rd & July 26th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1548.25</i>		
<i>Online Giving</i>	<i>\$777.18</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>		
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$130.00</i>		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>31/44</i>	<i>66</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$2535.43</i>		

Please note:

In order to meet budget each week we need to receive \$6,586 in offerings. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace. We could not do what we do without your prayers, volunteering of your time and talents, and financial support!!

Opportunities at Grace this week!

Sunday	8/2	9:00am	Divine Worship
Monday	8/3	-----	-----
Tuesday	8/4	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	8/5	6:30pm	Grace All Boards Meeting
Thursday	8/6	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	8/7	-----	-----
Saturday	8/8	8:00am	Rise & Sonshine Breakfast at Golden Honey Pancake Café and Oak Creek Farmer's Market
Sunday	8/9	9:00am	Divine Worship

Save the Date!

***The Fellowship Committee will be hosting Coffee Socials
after the following worship services:
Thursday, August 13th and Sunday, July 16th***

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we “Celebrate, Teach, and Share” the Good News of God’s Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
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School & Church Office

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